



AAPG

DISCOVER

The Middle East Region Newsletter

ISSUE 5 :: MAY 2014

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT OF AAPG MIDDLE EAST REGION

Sa'id Al-Hajri, President-Elect of AAPG - Middle East Region

A Happy and Prosperous 2014 to the AAPG Members of the Middle East

With great enthusiasm and passion, I wish to welcome you to yet another exciting term with a newly selected committee for the AAPG Middle East Regional Council (MERC). I thank the previous committee that was led by Dr. Abdulrahman Alsharhan for their outstanding achievements during the last term and ably assisted by a group of extraordinary outgoing committee members that furthered the cause of AAPG in the region. These were the hidden soldiers of AAPG, namely; Matter Al-Shammery, Mohammad Amoudi, Hussain Otaibi and David Alsop. I also wish to highlight the efforts of our energetic AAPG office staff in Dubai, Abeer Al-Zubaidi, Justine Frachon-Dugas, Vicky Douglas, and Kayleigh Craine. Because of their combined and excellent efforts, many AAPG members benefited from our many services and high quality workshops and conferences in the region.

The Middle East is an active and dynamic part of the world that is undergoing unprecedented growth and the MERC has an important role to play in order to support the growth and professional development needs of the geological community in the area. During this term we aim to achieve a higher level of engagement from both the industry and academia in the region in order to cater for a growing membership and the enormous upstream programs that are currently underway in the Middle East.

As you are probably aware, the AAPG has been a pillar of the world wide scientific community since its founding in 1917. The original purpose of AAPG, which is to foster scientific research, to advance the science of geology, to promote technology and to inspire high professional conduct, still guides the Association today. Currently the world's largest professional geological society, with over 35,000 members and 106 affiliated societies, AAPG provides publications, conferences and educational opportunities to geoscientists and disseminates



Sa'id Al-Hajri

the most current geological information available to the general public. The MERC takes these principles seriously and tries to serve as the local advocate for the geological community in the region.

During this term, we have monumental but exciting plans for the region. IPTC Doha will be our first conference in 2014 which is jointly organized with SPE, EAGE, and SEG. AAPG Middle East will also be co-hosting ICE 2014 with the Europe Region which will be held in Istanbul on September 2014. Other important conferences include Geo 2014, and the 2014 LIPE & AAPG Northern Arabia Geoscience Conference and Exhibition, which will be held on May 27-29, 2014 in Beirut, Lebanon. Numerous geoscience workshops are already under way and others are being planned, targeting pertinent Middle Eastern geoscience challenges.

The Middle East is truly the world's petroleum hub and its significance to source energy to the rest of the world will continue unabated into the distant future. In order to meet the challenge of supporting the region, MERC needs a capable and diverse committee to lead the way into the future. Therefore, we have carefully selected competent Council Members with a fairly well-balanced representation from the different petroleum industry leaders and academic centers in the region. Please get to know these honorable members who dedicate themselves to serving you and serving the AAPG. In this newsletter, you will find a list with the names, contact details and affiliation of the current MERC committee members.

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

Best wishes.

Sa'id Al-Hajri

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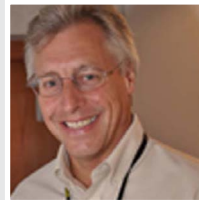
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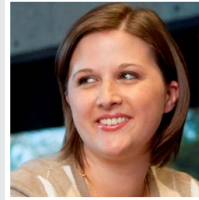
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Sa'id Al-Hajri (left) presents an AAPG token of appreciation to Anwar Al-Beaiji (Right) for his outstanding and continuous efforts for the YPSS and IBA.



Sa'id Al-Hajri thanks Matter Al-Shammery for his relentless effort as treasurer in the previous AAPG ME council.



Sa'id Al-Hajri says goodbye and thanks to Hussain Al Otaibi. Hussain served in the previous three councils and was a key contributor to the success of the AAPG ME organization.



Sa'id Al-Hajri with Dr. Abdulrahman-Al Sharhan who has served as the President for the previous council.

AAPG would also like to give thanks to David Alsop, who served as Secretary on the 2011-2013 council. Sa'id Al-Hajri presented David with a plaque of appreciation for his continuous support and dedication to AAPG.

YPSS COLUMN

YPs' Profile Grows in ME by Anwar Al-Beajji & Aisha Al-Bulushi

A few years ago, the AAPG Middle East Region's Council (AAPG-MER), realizing the growing importance and numbers of Young Professionals' (YPs) involvement in the Region's activities, established the Young Professionals and Student Support team (YPSS) to oversee the Region's YP and student activities.

The YPSS' role is to strengthen the links among YPs, students and the AAPG-MER Council by promoting the Council's vision of an integrated communication network. Through the YPSS chairperson, the Council ensures that YPs and students receive the benefits and opportunities afforded by AAPG, companies and educational institutes.

The YPSS team, under the supervision and guidance of the AAPG-MER Council, manages many Regional activities, including the Imperial Barrel Award Competition, YP Meet N Greet, short courses and workshops, the Student Chapter liaisons and the YP and Student Conference.

The YPSS team has successfully established new Student Chapters and reactivated existing chapters by organizing university visits to encourage students to apply for membership and take advantage of the services provided by AAPG. These efforts resulted in a significant increase in student membership and a greater number of Student Chapters organizing social activities, field trips and fundraising events for their respective universities.

In addition, the YPSS has organized four Imperial Barrel Award-Middle East Regional Competitions (IBA-MER). Since 2010, the IBA-MER program has become an important annual event in the Region and it is gaining momentum in terms of the number of participating teams and companies' financial and technical support. Equally important, a few universities have taken the initiative and designed a credited course

tailored specifically toward teaching exploration techniques and skills using the IBA datasets.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the IBA-MER program. The IBA-MER has been very successful with remarkable achievements at the regional and global levels. Teams from the Middle East Region set the standards very high, ranking third place, three times at the global competition against top schools from around the world.

Teams ranked third place at the Global IBA Competition:

- 2013: Sultan Qaboos University
- 2011: Sultan Qaboos University
- 2010: King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals

The YPSS team also organizes activities during GEO 2014; The Middle East Geosciences Conference & Exhibition in Bahrain.

The GEO-YPSS program provides Young Professionals and students unique learning and networking opportunities. Along with the IBA-MER competition, the GEO-YPSS program also includes short technical and softskills courses and the Meet N Greet networking event.

Since joining the AAPG-MER Council, the YPSS team has been able to continue playing a vital role in establishing links and strengthening relationships among YPs and students, companies, universities and the AAPG.

Through its networking events, technical short courses, workshops and leadership opportunities, the YPSS team has demonstrated that continued participation from students and YPs is a bridge to a brighter future and a proven strategy for success.

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT GEOSCIENCES TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

AAPG/EAGE Tight Reservoir in the Middle East Workshop

It was a pleasure being part of the technical committee for the Tight Reservoirs in the Middle East workshop held in Abu Dhabi. I had the opportunity to meet and interact with seasoned and highly knowledgeable engineers, geologists and various technical personnel working in the area of unconventional exploration, development, and operations of reservoirs. My contribution began during the early preparation stages of the workshop. I attended committee meetings in which members and I brainstormed various subject matters to be covered during the workshop. I was actively involved in announcing the workshop throughout ADNOC and its affiliated operating companies. I strongly believed in the content and goals of the workshop, as such it was fairly simple to get the blessing of ADNOC upper management for Platinum Sponsorship.

The technical meetings were a great place for knowledge transfer through presentations and the breakout sessions that followed. I was able to extract ideas to implement in Abu Dhabi and knowledge from case studies of projects in the United States, Canada and the

surrounding Middle East. The service companies did a great job at clearly and concisely presenting workflows, checklists, and engineering tools that would assist in unconventional reservoirs. Furthermore, the environment allowed for a comprehensive approach by integrating engineers, geologists, petrophysicist, IOCs, NOCs and service companies. An interesting portion of the workshop was the economical aspect of unconventional reservoirs. As you know, the cost associated with exploration and production is usually a bottleneck for unconventional. One key point addressed during this portion of the workshop that I appreciated, was the need for close collaboration amongst NOCs and IOCs allowing for an integrated, structured, and streamlined approach to manage uncertainties and optimize economics.

Overall, the workshop was quite impressive and organized. I thank AAPG and EAGE for inviting me to take part and hold the position of a committee member. This experience was enjoyable.

Faaeza Al Akatheeri - Sr. Geoscientist (ADNOC)



NEWS

AAPG ME visit to Oman: Sa'id Al-Hajri (President), Abeer Al-Zubaidi (Director) and Anwar Al-Beaiji (YPSS Chair) visited Muscat/Oman on 25 November. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the ties between AAPG and organizations, such as universities and oil companies. During the course of the visit, the University of Sultan Qaboos University, GUTech University and Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO) were visited. Sa'id presented about the benefits of joining AAPG, whereas



Sa'id Al-Hajri presenting his talk, "We Are AAPG" to the PDO audience.

Anwar presented the success stories from the YPSS division. A fruitful meeting was also held between AAPG ME members and the PDO management on how to improve serving the geosciences community.



Anwar Al-Beaiji presenting to Sultan Qaboos and GUTech universities. The title of the presentation was "Beautiful Minds in Land of Opportunities."

Lee Krystinik (AAPG President) and David Curtiss (AAPG Executive Director) visited the Middle East Region during the middle of January 2014. Both will be attending the IPTC conference in Doha (19-22 January) and have visited Saudi Aramco, the Empty Quarter and addressed the Dhahran Geosciences Society Dinner meeting in Saudi Arabia. In United Arab Emirates, Lee and David have addressed the Geosciences Society

and visited the Sabkha area. Below are some pictures from the AAPG President and Executive Director's visit to the region.



Left, Sa'id Al-Hajri (AAPG ME President) Middle, Abdullah H. Al Shemsi (President of ESG) right, Lee Krystinik (AAPG President) at the dinner meeting with the Emirates Society of Geosciences.

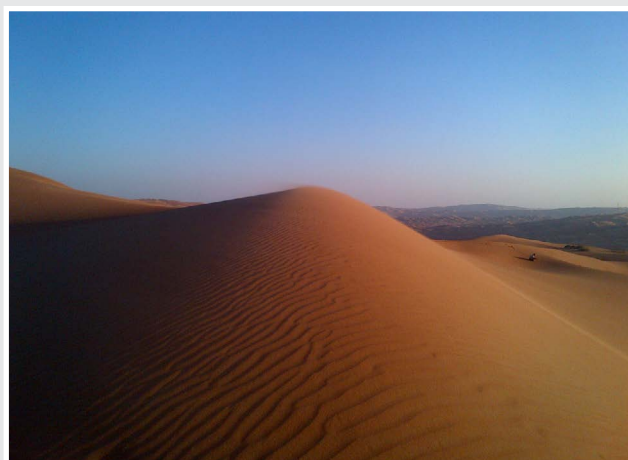


Photo from the AAPG President and Executive Director visit to the Empty Quarter, Saudi Arabia.



Field trip to the Sabkha in Abu Dhabi. Left, Sa'id Al-Hajri (AAPG ME President) Right, David Curtiss (AAPG Executive Director), field trip leaders Hisham Shibel, Abdullah Mansouri and Ali Shameri.



Another photo of the President from the Field trip to the Sabkha in Abu Dhabi.

UPCOMING EVENTS GEO 2014

Introduction from the Chair:

On behalf of the GEO 2014 Executive Committee, it gives me great honor to invite you to join us in Bahrain for the 11th Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition. Since its inception in 1994, the GEO Conference and Exhibition has been successfully revolving around meeting the expectations of the geoscience community and addressing current trends in the upstream industry in the region and the world at large. The theme of the GEO 2014 conference, "Taking Geoscience Beyond the Conventional," brings about a timely focus on exciting revolutions on many facets that are shaping the future of our industry at a fast pace. Therefore, GEO 2014 will be the premier forum for the upstream professional community; including operators, the service industry and academia alike to exchange current knowledge and debate future trends. Our industry will continue to thrive on talent, technology and collaboration in order to succeed and excel in providing energy to the world, while striving to exceed expectations in environmental and safety management.

The Technical Program Committee has outlined a great program framework for the conference that we hope you will find appealing. This is your opportunity to make a difference through your valuable contributions, sharing your knowledge, hearing from influential decision makers and executives and networking with fellow geoscientists from the GCC, the region and globally.

I hereby invite you to come forward with your contributions and participate in this landmark event in the region.

Looking forward to seeing you at GEO 2014.

Ibraheem Assa'adan - Saudi Aramco



AAPG and SEG leaders at the collaboration meeting held in Doha, Qatar in January 2014.

Introduction from the Conference Secretariat:

Under the leadership of Conference General Chair Ibraheem Assa'adan, Saudi Aramco and the Executive and Technical Program Committees, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) invite you to participate in the GEO 2014 technical conference. GEO 2014 will provide a dynamic and relevant science and business exchange for thousands of geosciences professionals across the region and beyond.



Under the patronage of
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

GEO 2014

11th Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition

CONFERENCE: 9 – 12 March 2014

EXHIBITION: 10 – 12 March 2014

Bahrain International Exhibition
and Convention Centre

registration is now open

www.geo2014.com

Conference organized by:



Supported by:



UPCOMING EVENTS

LIPE

Introduction from the Chair:

On behalf of the organizing committee of the 2014 LIPE & AAPG Northern Arabia Geoscience Conference, we cordially invite you to join us in Beirut for this special conference and exhibition dedicated to geoscience in Northern Arabia and Lebanon. Since 2011, the Lebanon International Petroleum Exploration (LIPE) Forum and Exhibition has been a successful event providing a platform for government and industry delegates, consultants, and academic researchers. The various LIPE's managed to display the phenomenal progress the Lebanese Petroleum Administration achieved for its preparation for the first Lebanon offshore licensing round. In 2014, together with AAPG Middle East Region we are moving one step further by hosting Lebanon in its Northern Arabia geo-context in order to enlarge the exchange platform provided by LIPE. The 2014 LIPE & AAPG Conference and Exhibition will tackle the current trends and challenges in the upstream throughout the Northern Arabian Region.

Several new discoveries have been announced in the last decade in the northern part of the Arabian region, encompassing conventional and unconventional reserves and in a variety of environments. Known resources and potential remaining undiscovered hydrocarbons in this region represent a 'game-changer' in the global oil and gas markets.

There remains very significant exploration potential in the region stretching from Turkey in the north to Saudi Arabia in the south. Northern Iraq's E&P market is currently booming and is witnessing a huge surge in activity. This conference will therefore be a forum for geoscience discussion from Lebanon and other countries such as Syria, Jordan, Northern Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The organizing committee has outlined an excellent program for the conference with a comprehensive list of topics that we hope you will find appealing. We do hope that you will grasp this opportunity to be part of the conference by contributing and presenting your work, sharing your knowledge, hearing influential decision makers and executives and networking with other geoscientist from the region and the world.

We invite you to participate in this landmark event and we look forward to meeting you in Beirut.

Wissam E. Chbat - Ministry of Energy & Water and the Lebanese Petroleum Administration

Fadi H. Nader - IFP Energies nouvelles



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

**2014 LIPE & AAPG Northern Arabia
Geoscience Conference and Exhibition**

New Frontiers, New Challenges

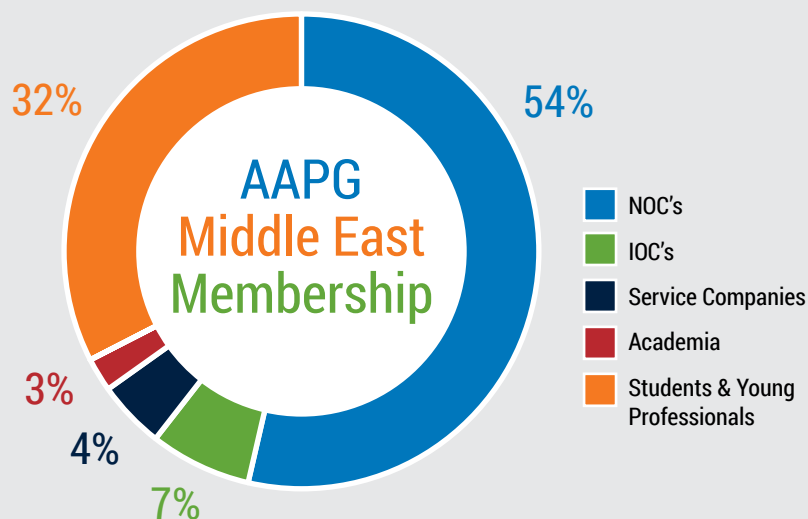
27 – 29 May 2014

Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand, Beirut, Lebanon

AAPG Middle East Calendar of Events: 2014				
Date	Society	Type	Meeting	Location
JANUARY				
19 - 22	AAPG/EAGE/SEG/SPE	Conference	IPTC	Doha, Qatar
MARCH				
8	AAPG	Students Programme	Imperial Barrel Awards	Manama, Bahrain
9-12	AAPG/EAGE/SEG	Conference	GEO Conference & Exhibition	Manama, Bahrain
APRIL				
6-9	AAPG	Conference	ACE 2014	Houston, USA
14-16	AAPG ME	GTW	Geosciences Workforce: Attraction & Retention	Abu Dhabi, UAE
28-30	AAPG ME	GTW	Producing the Last Drop: Capitalizing on People & Technology	Muscat, Oman
MAY				
12-14	AAPG ME	GTW	Estimating Petroleum Resources and Reserves: Geoscience Aspects	Dead Sea, Jordan
27-29	AAPG ME	Conference	LIPE & AAPG Northern Arabia Geoscience Conference and Exhibition	Beirut, Lebanon
JUNE				
9-11	AAPG/SPE	Workshop	E&P Data Management	Istanbul, Turkey
16-18	AAPG ME	GTW	Effective Training for the Young Upstream Generation	Manama, Bahrain
SEPTEMBER				
14-17	AAPG	Conference	ICE	Istanbul, Turkey
21-24	EAGE/SPE/AAPG	Workshop	EAGE/SPE/AAPG Shale Gas Workshop	Dubai, UAE
OCTOBER				
20-22	AAPG ME	GTW	Stratigraphic Traps of the Middle East	Muscat, Oman
NOVEMBER				
3-5	AAPG ME	GTW	Unlocking the Potential of Low Yielding Reservoirs	Bahrain
DECEMBER				
2-4	AAPG ME	GTW	Siliciclastic Reservoirs of the Middle East	Abu Dhabi, UAE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

There are 797 members currently in the AAPG ME Region mostly spread over in national oil companies and as Students. The Region has far greater potential in terms of possible members than what we have now and one of the main targets of this Council is to grow membership over the next two years. I would encourage our members to spread the word about the AAPG and associated benefits to their peers. The more members we have, the better we can serve the geosciences community, providing more enriching and diverse programs to benefit all. It is our intention to keep you up to date with membership updates in the upcoming newsletters.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Below are a selected list of recent publications from the Region.

Reservoir architecture of the Gharif Formation outcrops in the Southern Huqf area, Sultanate of Oman

D. B. Alsop, M. Al Ghamhari, A. Al Abri, A. Al Mahrooqi, H. Al Rawahi, and H. Salem, Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 387, first published on October 17, 2013, doi:10.1144/SP387.8

The carbonate-evaporite lagoon of Al Dakhirah (Qatar): an example of a modern depositional model controlled by longshore transport

Isabelle Billeaud, Bruno Caline, Benjamin Livas, Bernadette Tessier, Eric Davaud, Gregory Frebourg, Claude-Alain Hasler, Dominique Laurier, and Cecile Pabian-Goyheneche Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 388, first published on November 11, 2013, doi:10.1144/SP388.7

Palynology and alluvial architecture in the Permian Umm Irna Formation, Dead Sea, Jordan

Michael H. Stephenson and John H. Powell, GeoArabia, Volume 18, Number 4, 2013

Carbon-isotope signatures of Albian to Cenomanian (Cretaceous) shelf carbonates of the Natih Formation, Sultanate of Oman

Volker C. Vahrenkamp, GeoArabia, Volume 18, Number 4, 2013

STRATIGRAPHIC NOTE

Permian–Triassic Transition and the Saiq/Mahil Boundary in the Oman Mountains: Proposed correction for lithostratigraphic nomenclature

Aymon Baud and Sylvain Richoz, GeoArabia, Volume 18, Number 4, 2013

MIDDLE EAST GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE 2013:

Chrono- and sequence-stratigraphy of the Mid-Permian to Early Triassic Khuff sequences of the Arabian Plate

Moujahed I. Al-Husseini and Bastian Koehrer, GeoArabia, Volume 18, Number 4, 2013

Mid-Permian Khuff Sequence KS6: Paleorelief-influenced facies and sequence patterns in the Lower Khuff time-equivalent strata, Oman Mountains, Sultanate of Oman

Daniel Bendias, Bastian Koehrer, Michael Obermaier and Thomas Aigner, GeoArabia, Volume 18, Number 4, 2013

GEOPIC FROM THE REGION

Geology is full of fascinating outcrop photos and we would like to start publishing interesting geological pictures in this column. If any member would like to contribute a photo, please kindly send it to Yasir Al Hajri: Yasir.Hajri@pdo.co.om.

In this issue we have an outcrop photo of a fossilized tree from the Huqf area in Oman (courtesy of Alberto Miotto, PDO).

These fossilized trees are silified and occur commonly scattered across the outcrops of the Upper Gharif (Permian). These trunks are not in-situ growing on paleosols but are found on the desert surface deflated out

of channel sands in which they sometimes occur. They appear to be upland conifers that were transported and entombed in river channel sands. They are often aligned parallel to palaeocurrents. Growth rings are generally present and imply a seasonal climate. Silicification probably took place near surface, before compaction.

